Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A process for the production of microcapsules containing a drug, ~~characterised by~~ comprising the following steps:

a. coating drug microparticles with a layer of ethylcellulose

b. further coating the product of a. with a layer of an acrylic polymer.

Claim 2 (Original) A process according to claim 1, where the coating in step a. is applied by phase separation microencapsulation or by fluidized bed coating.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-2~~ claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the coating in step b. is applied by spraying a solution of suspension of acrylic polymer onto the particles obtained in a., suspended in a ~~fluidised~~ fluidized bed.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3, ~~where~~ wherein said solution or suspension is a hydroalcoholic solution, comprising the following weight percentages of components, calculated with respect to the total weight of the solution:

- acrylic polymer: 4-20%
- alcohol: 30-94%
- water: 0-40%
- micronised inorganic material: 2-20%

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A process according to claim3, ~~where~~ wherein said hydroalcoholic solution or suspension comprises the following weight percentages of components, calculated with respect to the total weight of the solution:

- acrylic polymer: 7-20%
- alcohol: 40-75%
- water: 10-35%

- micronised inorganic material: 5-9%

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims 4-5~~ claim 4, ~~where~~ wherein said alcohol is ethanol, and said inorganic material is talc.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-6~~ claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the product of step a. has a drug/ethylcellulose weight ratio (phase ratio) comprised between 1:1 and 30:1, and the product of step b. has an acrylic polymer content comprised between 5% and 40% by weight.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~-6~~, ~~where~~ wherein the product of step a. has a drug/ethylcellulose weight ratio (phase ratio) comprised between 3:1 and 15:1, and the product of step b. has an acrylic polymer content comprised between 10% and 25% by weight.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the taste-masked microcapsules obtained in step b. have a weight median diameter comprised between 20 and 800 μm, ~~preferably 100—400 μM,~~ drug potency comprised between 400 and 950 mg/g, and are capable of releasing at least 80% of the drug contained therein within 30 minutes ~~preferably within 10 minutes~~ in a aqueous acidic media.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) Microcapsules containing a drug, obtainable by the process described in ~~claims 1-9~~ claim 1.

Claim 11 (Original) Microcapsules according to claim 10, formulated in a pharmaceutical administrable form.

Claim 12 (Original) Microcapsules according to claim 11, wherein said pharmaceutical administrable form is chosen from dry powders for extemporaneous suspensions, tablets,

minitablets, microcapsule-containing capsules, monodose sachets, fast disintegrating tables, syrups.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) Microcapsules according to ~~claims 10-12~~ claim 10, wherein said drug is chosen from penicillins, cephalosporins, carbapenem, penems, penams, aminoglycosides, macrolides, ketolides, tetracyclines, quinolones.

Claim 14 (New) A process according to claim 9 wherein the taste-masked microcapsules obtained in step b. have a weight median diameter comprised between 100 and 400 μM and a drug potency comprised between 400 and 950 mg/g.